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THE WAR.

TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY.

The latest news from the war is quite as welcome as any that has preceded it. The occupation of Nashville by the government forces is placed beyond a doubt. Gen. Buell at the head of a portion of his command entered the city on the 2d inst. The rebel troops, after committing all manner of depredations on public property, destroying railroad bridges, &c., fell back on Murfreesboro, on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, thirty-two miles southeast of the capital. It is thought they will avail themselves of the mountain passes in that neighborhood, and oppose the advance of our army into Northern Alabama. Gen. Buell had with him in his advance from Bowling Green to Nashville, portions of McCook's and Mitchell's divisions, but, soon after his arrival at the latter place, was joined by Crittenden's and Nelson's commands, who went up the Cumberland by steamer. His force, allowing for garrisons at Bowling Green and other points occupied, can not be less than forty thousand troops. As our troops progress in Tennessee, we hear the most gratifying evidences of the revival of Union feeling among the people. The left wing of Buell's army, under Gen. Thomas, by this time must be in the vicinity of Knoxville.

The bearers of the rebel flag of truce, who met Commodore Foote and General Cullom, near Columbus, on the 23d inst., made a proposition for the evacuation of Columbus. This was referred to General Halleck. But the terms proposed were rejected by that officer, and the answer despatched by the flag of truce which went down from Cairo on the 24th.

But since then Columbus has really been abandoned. The following dispatch received from Commodore Foote, dated Cairo, March 1, settles the matter:

Lieut. Commanding Phelps, with a flag of truce to-day to Columbus, has this moment returned, and reports that Columbus is being evacuated. He saw the Rebels burning their winter quarters, and removing their heavy guns on the bluffs. But the guns in the water batteries remain intact. He also saw a large force of cavalry drawn up ostentatiously on the bluffs, but no infantry was to be seen, as heretofore. The encampment seen in our armed reconnoissance a few days since has been removed. Large fires were visible in the town of Columbus, and upon the river banks below, indicating the destruction of the town, military stores, and equipments.

A. H. FOOTE, Flag Officer."

It was believed that our forces would occupy the place on March 2d. The rebels were to fall back on Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River.

Gen. Buell has also telegraphed that Murfreesboro had been abandoned by the rebels, who were retreating along the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, tearing up the rails as they proceeded, thus rendering pursuit difficult.

A great change is found to have occurred already in the political feeling in Tennessee, and the War Department feels itself warranted in taking measures immediately to raise and arm volunteer troops in that State. The important announcement is also made by authority, that the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers will be opened this week to free and unrestricted commerce, under the order of the Secretary of the Treasury. This will prove a just measure of relief to the loyal people of Tennessee, who have been subjected to the greatest deprivations during the rebel occupation of the State.

More than this, business messages have been received in New York by telegraph from Nashville for the first time since early last summer; the Post Office is taken possession of by the government; and the President has designated the Hon. Andrew Johnson to be a Brigadier General, and he proceeds to Tennessee immediately, to open a military provisional government of Tennessee until the civil government shall be reconstructed.

The rebel forces under Albert S. Johnston are being steadily pressed backward by Gen. Buell. Cotton to the value of \$100,000 has fallen into our hands at Nashville, and the Treasury Department has taken measures to have it brought to New York. So the work goes bravely on.

The Rebel army, in their retreat from Nashville, left behind 1600 of their sick and wounded. They destroyed the bridges and burned all the steamboats lying there but one, which escaped. The Texas soldiers fired the city in many places, but the citizens extinguished the flames.

A great majority of the property owners remained at Nashville to receive the protection of the United States troops. The excitement among them was intense.

Before leaving Nashville, Gov. Harris made a speech, in which he said he had done all he could, and was going to leave for Memphis, to which place he advised the citizens to follow him.

The Union sentiment was very strong, and our troops were received with great cordiality.

Great indignation was expressed by the citizens of Nashville against Gov. Harris. He was fairly driven away by the Union men—the latter having become bold at the proximity of the Union troops, and dared to assert their rights.

The Mayor made a speech, saying he was still Seccession to the backbone. "But," said he, "you see how it is; the game is up and we must either surrender the town or have it burned."

Lieut. Grow sends a dispatch to Flag Officer Foote, from which we make the following extracts:

U. S. GUNBOAT TAYLOR, CAIRO, Feb. 23, 1862.

"SIR: I have returned to this place, after having gone up the Tennessee river as high as *Keokuk, Miss.* I am happy to state that I have met with an increased Union sentiment in South Tennessee and North Alabama. I saw few Mississippians. In Hardin, McNary, Wayne, Decatur, and a portion of Hardeman, all of which border upon the river, the Union sentiment is strong, and those who do not express themselves openly loyal, are only prevented by the fears of the military tyranny and coercion which is practiced by marauding bands of guerrilla companies of cavalry.

The glorious successes of our arms at Forts Henry and Donelson have been most beneficial to the Union cause throughout south and west Tennessee and Alabama. Union men can now begin to express their loyal sentiments without fear of being mobbed, especially along the banks of the river. I have enlisted seventeen men and boys from the *Keokuk*." 22

From the direction of Murfreesboro advices state that the rebels concentrated at that place have been surrounded by Gen. Buell's forces, so that none could escape.

The Rebels offered to surrender the position to the Federal troops if they would be allowed to march out with the honors of war.

General Buell refused to allow them these conditions, and demanded their unconditional surrender. He notified them that he would allow two days for consideration, and if the place was not surrendered at the expiration of that period he would open fire upon them.

ARKANSAS.

In this State General Curtis seems to be doing a good deal of work that was hoped and promised from Gen. Lane and Gen. Hunter. He has got the start of those officers, and is now only waiting for supplies to push on more rapidly and energetically than ever. He first routed Price at Sugar Creek, in Benton county; then drove him from Bentonville; then pursued him to Cross Hollows, where he had resolved to make a stand. Price, reinforced by McCulloch, appears, however, to have thought better of it, and made a run instead of a stand. Curtis followed him to Fayetteville; but Price and his men, after setting fire to the town, fled, and Curtis's forces marched in among the smoking ruins.

Curtis is now forty miles beyond the Missouri line, and not more than forty from the Arkansas River. The Boston Mountains, near him, are said to be full of Union people, and John Ross with the Cherokees, is only waiting for a chance to declare in favor of the Union.

NORTH CAROLINA.

A dispatch from Com. Goldsborough to Secretary Welles, dated U. S. Steamer Philadelphia, off Roanoke Island, Feb. 23, says:

"The reconnoitering party sent up the Chowan River, has returned. It did not go beyond Winton. There the enemy, in considerable force, opened a heavy fire upon the vessel in advance, the Delaware, with a battery of artillery and musketry, which induced our force to attack it in return, both by landing the New York Ninth Zouaves, and with the guns of the vessels that could be brought to bear on the enemy. The enemy soon took to flight and the houses he occupied as quarters were burned. Not a man on our side, of either arm, was injured.

The Raleigh Register says all the prisoners taken at Roanoke Island have been released on parole.

THE POTOMAC.

Gen. Banks has made an advance on the Upper Potomac, crossing on the night of the 23d from Sandy Hook to Harper's Ferry. Strong reinforcements went over on the 25th and occupied Bolivar, Charles-town and both banks of the Shenandoah. Martinsburg is also occupied by our troops. Whether any peculiar significance is to be attached to this advance is unknown; it is surmised, however, that this is the premonitory symptom of a general movement. The sentiment among the people is said to be strongly in favor of the Union; and there is more reason to credit this, because of the Union speech lately made at Martinsburg by Mr. Faulkner, ex-Minister to France, and occupant of Fort Lafayette. That gentleman, known as a political trimmer, has openly announced that the secession game is played out, and that all the people on the Upper Potomac agree with him in the sentiment. The rats are leaving the sinking ship.

Gen. Lander died on the 2d inst., at Paw Paw, in Western Virginia. His death at this juncture is a disaster. He was a native of Massachusetts and had been by profession an engineer. He served as a colonel under McClellan in the brilliant campaign which first made known to the world the superlative abilities of the Commander-in-Chief, and was made a Brigadier in July. He received his death wound at Edward's Ferry; but refused at first to succumb to its influences. Gen. Shields succeeded to his command. Gen. Lander was recently married to the distinguished actress, Miss Jane Davenport.

News from Rebel Sources.

The Rebel newspapers are gloomy in the extreme. They acknowledge the extent of their disasters, abuse

his government a favorite, but they still attempt a show of desperation. The inaugural plurge of Jeff Davis is one of the most remarkable documents that ever emanated from what purported to be a government. He says in his opening sentence "events have demonstrated that the (Rebel) government has attempted more than it has power successfully to achieve"; he says that the Rebels "were destitute of the means for the prosecution of a war on so gigantic a scale as that which it has attained; calls the surrender at Roanoke Island "deeply humiliating however imperfect may have been the preparations for defence"; and in regard to Fort Donelson, hopes that "our losses have been exaggerated." He speaks bitterly of the enlistment plan and thinks it probable that the war will continue through a series of years. The only hope he has is that the Federal Government will not be able to support its extravagant expenditure.

REBEL STATEMENT OF THE DONELSON AFFAIR.

"Our loss at the Fort Donelson fight of four days is put down at 1600. The Yankee loss was 4000.

Fort Donelson was surrendered on Sunday, the 16th, in accordance with the decision of a council of war held the previous night. Gen. Buckner was left to make it known to Gen. Pillow and staff. Gen. Floyd and eight hundred of his brigade went to Clarksville on Sunday morning. Buckner remained. This statement seems confused. We can't understand how a council of war was held in Pillow's absence, or when Gen. Buckner was left to make known to him the intention to capitulate.

Our army of twelve thousand, says the dispatch, capitulated on Sunday morning.

It is believed that Nashville has been evacuated and the army has fallen back, but to what point is unknown."

NEWS FROM SAVANNAH.

AUGUSTA, Feb. 26, 1862.

The Savannah Republican of this morning says that communication with Fort Pulaski has been effectually closed by the federals, who have erected three batteries for heavy guns.

THE POST OFFICE FOLLOWING THE ARMY. First Assistant Postmaster General Kasson is engaged in sending out instructions and making arrangements for re-establishing post offices and post routes, as our armies advance into the the so-called Confederate States.

A. H. Markland is following our forces into Tennessee, and J. J. Miller, also an agent of the Department in this connection, is operating in the southern part of Kentucky. The post office at Nashville and those in the eastern part of North Carolina will soon be open.

Gift of Miss Winona Burney,
382 Jayne Ave.,
Oakland, Calif.